

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, TGEN, JA

SUBJECT: THE JAPAN SCIENCE SOCIETY (JSS)

REF: TOKYO A-392

FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FURNISHED AS ADJUNCT TO REPAIR. RYOICHI SASAGAWA, 77, WEALTHY ENTREPRENEUR AND OWNER OF A MOTORBOAT RACING EMPIRE, IS REGARDED AS ONE OF JAPAN'S FOREMOST SPONSORS OF EXTREME ULTRA-NATIONALIST CAUSES. A CLASS-A WAS CRIMINAL WHO SERVED FOUR YEARS IN PRISON DURING THE OCCUPATION, SASAGAWA IN 1931 FOUNDED A RIGHTWING NATIONALIST POLITICAL PARTY WHICH CONDONED POLITICAL ASSASSINATION AND URGED WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN. HE RE-EMERGED AFTER THE OCCUPATION AS A BUSINESSMAN AND ORGANIZER OF VARIOUS NEO-NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS. IN THE INTERVENING YEARS, HE HAS EXPANDED HIS INFLUENCE INTO MANY AREAS AND IS NOW ADVISOR OR DIRECTOR OF OVER THREE DOZEN ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING GROUPS PROMOTING SCIENCE, RELIGION AND SPORTS. HIS MOST FREQUENTLY USED TITLE IS PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN SHIPPING PROMOTION SOCIETY, BUT HE IS BETTER RECOGNIZED AS THE BACKER OF MANY PROJECTS OF A NATIONALIST, ANTI-COMMUNIST CHARACTER. THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH FIGURES AS REV. MOON OF THE UNIFICATION CHURCH AND YOSHIO KODAMA, A CENTRAL FIGURE INDICTED IN THE RECENT LOCKHEED BRIBERY SCANDAL.

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